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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/405,946	09/27/1999	PIERRE HILAIRE	ART9901	1073
25197	7590	05/04/2006	EXAMINER	
LEARY & ASSOCIATES 3900 NEWPARK MALL RD. THIRD FLOOR, SUITE 317 NEWARK, CA 94560			MENDEZ, MANUEL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3763	

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. In this action, the examiner would like to present new art found in the last search and address applicant's remarks.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1-4, 7-13, and 16-19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff-Mooij, U.S. Patent No. 4,610,469, in view of Mayer, Gerrome, or Dehdashtian, et al., as discussed in the previous Office Action, **and in further view of Choudhury, et al., or Vailancourt.**

The examiner of record would like to point out that Choudhury, et al., and Vailancourt disclose apparatuses having the proximal end of the tubular portion exposed on the exterior of the valve connector. The examiner reviewed the entire specification for clarification on the definition of the phrase "exterior of the valve connector", but was unable to locate a specific definition within the specification of this application. Accordingly, the American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition, defines the word "exterior" as an external or outward appearance. Figures 2 and 4 of

Art Unit: 3763

Choudhury, et al., and Figure 2 of Vailancourt specifically show the proximal end of the tubular portion exposed on the exterior of the valve connector, or as the definition suggests, having an outward appearance.

Based on the above observations, for a person of ordinary skill in the art, modifying the apparatus disclosed by Wolff-Mooij with a tubular portion exposed on the exterior of the valve connector, as taught by Choudhury, et al., or Vailancourt, would have been considered obvious in view of the proven conventionality of this enhancement.

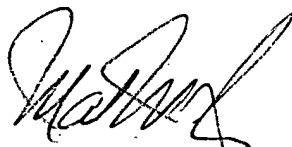
### ***Conclusion***

In view of the new art used in the above rejection, this action is not a final rejection. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manuel Mendez whose telephone number is 703-272-4977. The examiner can normally be reached on 0730-1800 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nicholas D. Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3763

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Manuel Mendez  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3763

MM